



Drema visitors saw the first live demonstrations of the amazing Schubox.

Below: Piotr (left) and Rafal sell the Schubox in nPoland.



The door is open. The race is on. Rafal Paluszewski dashes across the aisle with an MDF moulding that has just been curtain-coated with a 250g coating of water-based lacquer. He places it carefully on a rack in the open Schubox. Inside the Schubox, the temperature is comfortably warm, around 29 degrees, and intrigued visitors gather around the open doors to view the spectacle.

Watching paint dry has never been so interesting.

Despite the open doors and the ultra-heavy coating weight, it doesn't take long: just thirteen minutes later the propane fired infra-red catalytic convertors have done their work. Rafal hands round a perfectly dry, ready-to-stack moulding.

The crowd is suitably impressed.

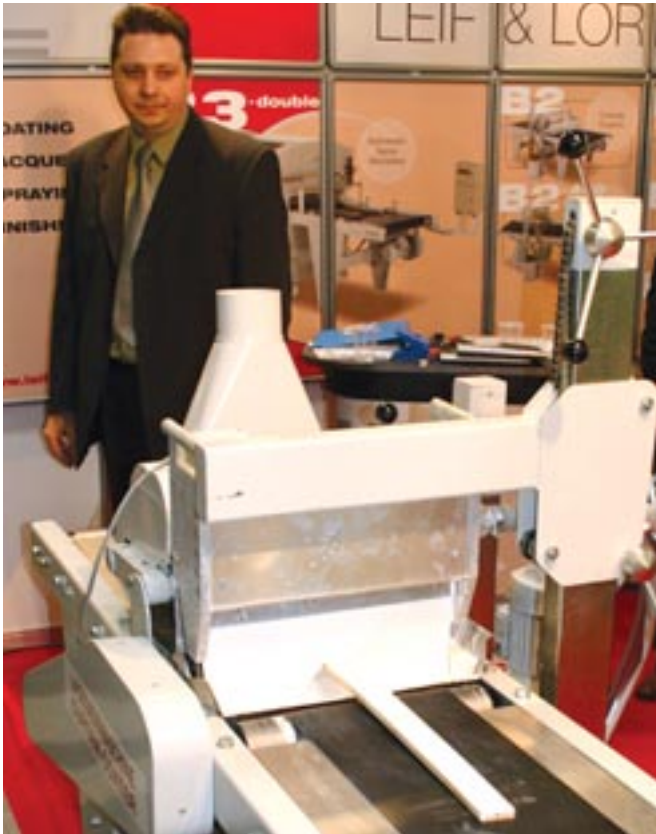
Questions ensue in rapid succession.

"This is a three-section standard Schubox," comments Rafal, whose company, Gdynia-based Artech sells the Schubox in Poland. "Inside, the long-wave infra-red is doing the curing, not the heat, so we run the test with the doors open to prove it."

The Schubox, which has made a name for itself throughout Europe as the fastest

drying system currently available, is perhaps best known for dealing with solvent-based materials because of its ability to convert VOCs into largely harmless water vapour. For marketing and environmental reasons, the use of water-based finishes has increased but such coatings present an array of different problems for the manufacturer to deal with. High humidity and low temperature increase the already long drying times of water-based materials and can create problems with fibres rising in MDF. That in itself leads to thicker coat applications and increased sanding between coats. However, manufacturers have found that by rapid curing in a Schubox, grain raising is virtually eliminated, lower coating weights can therefore be used and less intermediate sanding is required. In short, the Schubox not only reduces drying time from hours to minutes, it also helps cut the cost of lacquers and sanding materials.

"The same science can be applied to architectural mouldings which are produced on high speed lines with water-based primers," explains the inventor of the Schubox, Peter Schubert. "Line speeds can be as high as 60m per minute and dry, ready-to-sand times of just 20 seconds are



Above: Rafal coats an MDF moulding, ready for the dash across the aisle to the waiting Schubox (left).



Right: thirteen minutes later, the coating is fully cured and ready to be stacked or packed and shipped.

required. We can adapt Schubox technology to suit all sorts of applications.”

The Schubox is well-established as a leader in its field. The applications for the Schubox range from assembled furniture to pianos, mouldings to components. Such is its success that the Schubox is now being custom-built to suit individual applications in Poland.

For details, fire a few more questions at Rafal or Piotr on 058 664 6453, visit the website, www.artech.win.pl or email artech@artech.win.pl



Right: The Schubox has a bright, stainless steel interior which bounces the rays around, ensuring a perfect cure, even with the doors open.